**Transfer of Tin Bigha to Bangladesh**

*133. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position with regard to proposed transfer of Tin Bigha area of West Bengal to Bangladesh; and

(b) whether Government are aware of the public agitation against the proposal and in what manner Government would protect the safety and other interests of the Indian population likely to be effected by the proposed transfer of the Tin Bigha area or permitting it to be used by Bangladesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The Government is committed to the leasing of Tin Bigha to Bangladesh in pursuance of our earlier agreements with Bangladesh. This commitment was reiterated during the recent visit of the Bangladesh Foreign Minister to India from 26—29 August, 1991. Necessary measures are underway to complete the required formalities for an early leasing of the corridor.

(b) Yes, Sir. Some residents of Kuchlibari, an area to the south of the Tin Bigha, have expressed apprehensions about their area becoming an enclave once the lease is put into effect. However, such fears are misplaced because the sovereignty over the corridor will continue to vest in India and the residents of Kuchlibari as also Indian officials and law enforcing agencies will continue to have the right of free and unfettered movement in the leased area in either direction. The interests of the Indian population have thus been fully protected.

**Robberies in South Delhi**

*134. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that day light robberies in South Delhi, have been taking place for the last two years and police have not been able to check the same;

(b) what are the details of such cases during the last two years and the number of cases in which the police have been able to arrest the culprits; and

(c) the number of cases which terminated in deaths and what are the details of such cases in Vasant Kunj area?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The number of cases of daylight robberies in South and South West Districts of Delhi during the last two years and upto 15th August, 1991, the number of persons arrested and the number of cases instituted in the court are as follows:

| Year | Number of cases | Number of persons arrested | Number of cases instituted in the court |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1989 | 39 | 54 | 21 |
| 1990 | 27 | 50 | 18 |
| 1991 (upto 15th August, 1991) | 29 | 47 | 6 |

(c) There were 9 cases which terminated in death. Two of these cases occurred in Vasant Kunj area. In one of cases of Vasant Kunj area, two persons have been arrested and the case instituted in the court. The other case relating to Vasant Kunj area could not be worked out so far.

**Unutilisation of P&T funds for expansion of Postal Services**

*135. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item entitl-

ed "75 per cent P&T funds unutilised : CAG" appearing in the daily Financial Express Bombay dated the 5th August, '91 indicating that the Postal Department had not utilised 75 per cent of the funds made available during the Seventh Plan for expansion of postal services in rural areas;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that only 3007 new Post Offices were opened during the period 1985—89 against the targetted 6000;

(c) if so, whether Government have made any analysis of the factors for not achieving the target, especially when funds were already ear-marked for the programmes; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) A news item to this effect has come to Government's notice.

(b) A reference to this effect has been made in the C&AG Report on the Department of Posts for the year 1989-90. However, during the Seventh Five Year Plan 4371 Post Offices were sanctioned as against the target of 6000. The difference between the number of post offices sanctioned and the number of post offices actually opened is largely due to the time lag between these two activities.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The shortfall in the target of 6000 fixed for the 7th Plan was due mainly to the ban on creation of posts and time consuming procedure obtaining then for opening of post offices. As a result of this ban, during the first two years of the Seventh Plan namely, 1985-86 and 1986-87 only 25 post offices could be opened. Subsequently when some relaxation was announced by the Government in this regard, the pace of sanctioning of post offices got accelerated.

**Overcrowding in Tihar Jail**

*136. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Tihar Jail is overcrowded; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To augment jail capacity three more barracks, which will accommodate 300 inmates, are being added to existing jail No. 3 in the Tihar Jail Complex. The Delhi Administration has also approved a proposal to construct two new jails which will accommodate 1400 inmates.

**Target fixed for providing telephone connections to Villages**

*137. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fixed a target to provide at least one telephone connection to every village within a time frame;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) the number of villages in the State of Madhya Pradesh which have so far been provided with telephone connections; and

(d) by when Government propose to provide telephone connections to rest of the villages in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Around 5.7 lakh villages are likely to be covered in the country for telephone facility by 2000 AD.

(c) Telephone facility has been extended to 4305 villages in the State of Madhya Pradesh so far.

(d) By 2000 AD.